

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04189 291252Z

47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SSO-00 USIE-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /108 W

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O R 291228Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4582

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCUNC

COMNAVFORK

S E C R E T SEOUL 4189

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KNP PATROL BOAT INCIDENT

REF: SEOUL 4184

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SEOUL MORNING PAPERS JUNE 29
CARRY SUBSTANTIALLY SAME ACCOUNT OF KNMP BOAT INCIDENT.
THIS VERSION, ATTRIBUTED TO ROK MND, RUNS AS FOLLOWS: BOAT
SUNK BY THREE NK GUNBOATS IN EXCHANGE OF FIRE AFTER
SURPRISE ATTACK. AT TIME OF ATTACK KNMP BOAT PLACED
AT 129N, 38-28E. BOAT WAS NINE MILES SOUTH OF MDL WHEN
ATTACK OCCURRED AND SANK THREE TO FIVE MILES NORTH OF MDL
AFTER BEING PUSHED NORTHWARD BY ATTACKING NK SHIPS. SK
BOAT WAS 25 EAST OF GEOJIN WHEN ATTACKED. ROKN AND ROKAF
UNITS DESPATCHED TO AREA OF INCIDENT. ROKAF PLANES AND
NK MIGS FLEW AS CLOSE AS TWO TO THREE MILES OF ONE
ANOTHER DURING THIS ACTION. KNMP BOAT WAS PROTECTING
SK FISHING VESSELS WHEN INCIDENT TOOK PLACE.

2. BOTH VERNACULAR DAILIES QUOTE STATE DEPARTMENT

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04189 291252Z

SPOKESMAN AS SAYING NK ATTACK WAS QUOTE AN INDISCRIMINATE

AND OUTRAGEOUS USE OF FORCE ON A SHIP APPARENTLY NOT
EQUIPPED WITH ATTACK CAPABILITY UNQUOTE. INDEPENDENT
CHOSUN ALSO ATTRIBUTED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENT THAT
QUOTE THIS ATTACK WAS ON A SHIP WHICH APPARENTLY WAS
DISPLAYING NO HOSTILE INTENT UNQUOTE. ALSO QUOTED
SPOKESMAN AS NOTING NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION THAT
ATTACK OCCURRED 12 MILES OUTSIDE TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3. ALL PAPERS CARRY ACCOUNT ON PAGE ONE WITH CHARTS
SHOWING LOCATION OF INCIDENT AND PICTURES OF 863. THREE
PAPERS CARRY PICTURES OF CREW TAKEN WEEK AGO. GOVERNMENT
KOREA HERALD CARRIES SIDEBAR QUOTE CHRONOLOGY OF ATROCITIES
UNQUOTE ON PAGE ONE. NO EDITORIALS. END UNCLASSIFIED.
COMMENT: BEGIN SECRET. JUNE 29 PRESS STORIES ARE A
REVISION OF FIRST STORY PUT OUT OF MND THAT KNMP BOAT
CAPTURED WELL SOUTH OF MDL. CLAIM THAT KNMP BOAT SUNK
NOT YET FULLY CONFIRMED. WHILE CURRENT MND LINE
ABOUT INITIATION OF INCIDENT STILL DOES NOT ACCORD WITH
REALITIES AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, ADMISSION THAT BOAT
WAS NORTH OF MDL ACCORDS MORE CLOSELY WITH REALITIES. WE
BELIEVE SUGGESTED PRESS AND MAC LINE DESCRIBED PARA 7
REFTEL STILL VIABLE IN LIGHT OF REVISED MND ACCOUNT.
HABIB

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL SHIPS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL04189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740173-0381
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974061/aaaaaama.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 4184
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KNP PATROL BOAT INCIDENT
TAGS: MOPS, KS, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005